# ADAMS BROADWELL JOSEPH & CARDOZO

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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> > May 1, 2006

#### SACRAMENTO OFFICE

1225 8th STREET, SUITE 550 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-4810

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### BY U.S FIRST CLASS MAIL

Kevin Benson, President Laidlaw Transit Inc. doing business as Laidlaw Education Services 55 Shuman Blvd. #400 Naperville, IL 60563

CT Corporation Agent for Service of Process for Laidlaw Transit, Inc. doing business as Laidlaw Education Services 818 West 7th Street Los Angeles, CA 90017

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Kevin Benson, President Laidlaw Transit Management Company, Inc. 55 Shuman Blvd. #400 Naperville, IL 60563

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Kevin Benson, President Laidlaw Transportation Management, Inc. 55 Shuman Blvd. #400 Naperville, IL 60563

CT Corporation Agent for Service of Process for Laidlaw Transportation Management, Inc. 818 West 7th Street Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Notice of Violation of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65), Section 25249.6 of the California Health and Safety Code, for Exposing All Passengers on Diesel School Buses to Diesel Engine Exhaust Without a Warning

### Dear Mr. Benson:

The Environmental Law Foundation ("ELF") is a California non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of human health and the environment. ELF has a long-standing interest in reducing health hazards to the public posed by toxic 1865-005a

chemicals. Our Children's Earth Foundation ("OCE") is a California non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the public, especially children, from the harmful effects of air and water pollution. OCE has an interest in reducing the harmful effects of toxic air pollution.

This letter constitutes notice that the entities listed below have violated and continue to violate provisions of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health and Safety Code sections 25249.5 et seq. Specifically, these entities have violated and continue to violate the warning requirement at section 25249.6 of the California Health and Safety Code, which provides, "No person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual..."

# Alleged Violators:

Laidlaw Transit, Inc. doing business as Laidlaw Education Services;

Laidlaw Transit Inc.;

Laidlaw Transit Services Inc.;

Laidlaw Transit Management Company, Inc.;

Laidlaw Transportation Management, Inc.

School buses owned and operated by these entities for public and private schools and school districts in the State of California emit diesel engine exhaust, a chemical known to the State to cause cancer. On each and every day from October 1, 1991through the present, these entities have exposed and continue to expose all passengers on the buses they operate for public and private schools and school districts, within the State of California, to high levels of diesel engine exhaust, a toxic chemical emitted by the entities' diesel buses. Exposure has occurred through inhalation of the diesel engine exhaust from the buses.

Because diesel engine exhaust is a chemical listed in Proposition 65 as a cancer causing chemical, pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.6 these entities were, and are, required to provide clear and reasonable warnings to all passengers on their buses before exposing the passengers on the bus to diesel engine exhaust emitted by their diesel buses. The warnings must state that the diesel buses emit a chemical known by the State of California to cause cancer. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(d), ELF and OCE intend to bring suit in the public interest against the above named entities sixty days hereafter to correct the violation occasioned by the failure to warn all passengers on the buses of the exposure to diesel engine exhaust.

Pursuant to 22 California Code of Regulations § 12903(b)(1), attached is a copy of "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A

Summary," a summary of Proposition 65 prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(d)(1), the undersigned hereby include the attached Certificate of Merit, to wit, that the undersigned have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has or have reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of this notice, and that, based on that information, the undersigned believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case. Factual information sufficient to establish the basis of this Certificate of Merit is included with the notice that is served on the Attorney General and is provided to that office in confidence and is not to be disclosed except according to law.

While violations are occurring throughout the State of California, the noticing parties are unable to know for certain if violations are occurring in all of the 58 counties in California. Therefore, pursuant to 22 California Code of Regulations § 12903(c)(3), the noticing parties are providing this notice to the district attorney for each of the 58 counties in California. Further, the noticing parties provide this notice to the California Attorney General and the city attorneys for the cities of Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and San Jose.

ELF is located at: 1736 Franklin, 9th Floor, Oakland, California 94612, telephone (510) 208-4555. OCE may be contacted at: 100 First Street, Suite 100-367, San Francisco, California, 94105, telephone (415) 896-5289. ELF and OCE are represented in this matter by the law firm of Adams Broadwell Joseph & Cardozo. All communications concerning this matter should be directed to:

Marcelin Keever

Our Children's Earth Foundation

(415) 896-5289

(815) 642-9181

100 First Street, Suite 100-367 San Francisco, California, 94105

James Wheaton
Environmental Law Foundation
1736 Franklin, 9th Floor
Oakland, California 94612
Telephone: (510) 208-4555
Facsimile: (510) 208-4562

(510) 208-4555 Telephone: (510) 208-4562 Facsimile:

Sincerely,

Richard Toshiyuki Drury Attorney for OCE & ELF

Enclosures

1865-005a

May 1, 2006 Page 4

cc: (without "Proposition 65: A Summary" attachment):

Attorney General of California
(with attached confidential factual information supporting Certificate of Merit)
Los Angeles City Attorney
San Diego City Attorney
City Attorney of San Francisco
San Jose City Attorney
District Attorneys for California's 58 Counties
(see attached certificate of service)

# CERTIFICATE OF MERIT Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

# I, Richard Drury, declare:

- 1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached notice of violation in which it is alleged that the parties identified in the notice have violated Health & Safety Code section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
- 2. I am an attorney representing Our Children's Earth Foundation and the Environmental Law Foundation.
- 3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action.
- 4. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiffs' case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.
- 5. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health & Safety Code section 25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identify of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

(Killy)

Richard Drury
Attorney for Our Children's Earth Foundation and

Environmental Law Foundation

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am employed in the City of South San Francisco in the County of San Mateo, California. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within action. My business address is 601 Gateway Blvd., Suite 1000, South San Francisco, California 94080.

On May 1, 2006 I served the following document(s):

NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65), SECTION 25249.6 OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, FOR EXPOSING ALL PASSENGERS ON DIESEL SCHOOL BUSES TO DIESEL ENGINE EXHUAST WITHOUT A WARNING

by UNITED STATE FIRST CLASS MAIL by placing a true and correct copy thereof in an envelope addressed to each of the persons named below at the address shown, and by sealing and depositing said envelope in the United States mail at South San Francisco, California, with postage fully prepaid to:

### See Attached List.

Executed on this day of May, 2006 at South San Francisco, California. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Bonnie Heelev

## SERVICE LIST

Kevin Benson, President Laidlaw Transit Inc. doing business as Laidlaw Education Services 55 Shuman Blvd. #400 Naperville, IL 60563

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District Attorney of Alameda County 1225 Fallon Street, Room 900 Oakland, CA 94612

District Attorney of Colusa County 547 Market Street Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney of Contra Costa County 725 Court Street, Room 402 Martinez, CA 94553

District Attorney of Alpine County P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120 1865-005a District Attorney of Del Norte County 450 H Street, Ste 171 Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney of Amador County 708 Court Street, #202 Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney of Butte County 25 County Center Drive Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney of El Dorado County 515 Main Street Placerville, CA 95667 District Attorney of Calaveras County 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249

District Attorney of Fresno County 2220 Tulare Street, #1000 Fresno, CA 93721

District Attorney of Glenn County P.O. Box 430 Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney of Kings County 1400 West Lacey Hanford, CA 93230 May 1, 2006 Page 9

District Attorney of Lake County 255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453

District Attorney of Humboldt County 825 5th Street Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney of Imperial County 939 Main Street El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney of Lassen County 220 S. Lassen St., Ste 8 Susanville, CA 96130

District Attorney of Inyo County P.O. Drawer D Independence, CA 93526

District Attorney of Los Angeles County 210 W. Temple Street, Room 345 Los Angeles, CA 90012

District Attorney of Madera County 209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637

District Attorney of Kern County 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301

District Attorney of Marin County 3501 Civic Center Dr., Room 183 San Rafael, CA 94903 District Attorney of Mono County P.O. Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517

District Attorney of Mariposa County P.O. Box 730 Mariposa, CA 95338

District Attorney of Monterey County PO Box 1131 Salinas, CA 93901

District Attorney of Mendocino County P.O. Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney of Napa County 931 Parkway Mall Napa, CA 94559

District Attorney of Merced County 2222 "M" Street Merced, CA 95340

District Attorney of Nevada County 201 Church St., Suite 8 Nevada City, CA 95959

District Attorney of Orange County 401 Civic Ctr Drive West Santa Ana, CA 92701

District Attorney of Modoc County 204 S Court Street Alturas, CA 96101-4020 District Attorney of Placer County 11562 "B" Avenue Auburn, CA 95603

District Attorney of San Bernardino County 316 N. Mountain View Avenue San Bernardino, CA 92415-0004

District Attorney of Plumas County 520 Main Street, Room 404 Quincy, CA 95971

District Attorney of San Diego County 330 West Broadway, Suite 1320 San Diego, CA 92112

District Attorney of Riverside County 4075 Main Street, 1st Floor Riverside, CA 92501

District Attorney of San Francisco County 850 Bryant Street, Rm 325 San Francisco, CA 94103

District Attorney of Sacramento County 901 "G" Street Sacramento, CA 95814

District Attorney of San Joaquin County P.O. Box 990 Stockton, CA 95201

District Attorney of San Luis Obispo County 1050 Monterey St, Room 450 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 May 1, 2006 Page 10

District Attorney of San Benito County 419 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor Hollister, CA 95023

District Attorney of San Mateo County 400 County Ctr, 3rd Fl Redwood City, CA 94063

District Attorney of Sierra County Courthouse, P.O. Box 457 Downieville, CA 95936

District Attorney of Santa Barbara County 1105 Santa Barbara Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101

District Attorney of Siskiyou County P.O. Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097

District Attorney of Solano County 600 Union Avenue Fairfield, CA 94533

District Attorney of Santa Clara County 70 West Hedding Street San Jose, CA 95110

District Attorney of Santa Cruz County 701 Ocean Street, Room 200 Santa Cruz, CA 95061

District Attorney of Sonoma County 600 Administration Drive, Room 212J Santa Rosa, CA 95403 District Attorney of Shasta County 1525 Court Street, Third Floor Redding, CA 96001 L 1632

District Attorney of Stanislaus County 800 11th Street, Room 200 Modesto, CA 95353

District Attorney of Sutter County 446 Second Street Yuba City, CA 95991

District Attorney of Ventura County 800 South Victoria Ave Ventura, CA 93009

District Attorney of Tehama County P.O. Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080

District Attorney of Yolo County 301 Second Street Woodland, CA 95695

District Attorney of Trinity County P.O. Box 1310 Weaverville, CA 96093

District Attorney of Yuba County 215 Fifth Street Marysville, CA 95901

District Attorney of Tulare County 221 S. Mooney Ave, Room 224 Visalia, CA 93291 District Attorney of Tuolumne County 2 South Green Sonora, CA 95370

San Jose City Attorney's Office 151 West Mission Street San Jose, CA 95110

Los Angeles City Attorney's Office Room 1800, City Hall East 200 N. Main Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

San Diego City Attorney's Office 1200 3rd Avenue, 12th Floor San Diego, CA 92101

San Francisco City Attorney's Office City Hall, Room 234 San Francisco, CA 94102

Ed Weil, Deputy Attorney General California Attorney General's Office 1515 Clay Street Oakland, CA 94612